



4 Drake St, Mornington VIC 3931
Parish Office: Tue to Fri 9am to 4pm: Ph: 5975 2200
Email: mornington@cam.org.au
Web: stmacartansparish.com.au
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Geoffrey McIlroy
Assistant Priest: Fr An Hoang Le
Parish Secretary: Cherrie Azzopardi



Wise Men
Still Seek
Him!

The
Epiphany
of the
Lord



Mass Times:

- Weekdays: Tues to Saturday 9:15am
- Saturday night: 6 pm
- Sunday: 9am, 11am
- Anointing/Healing Mass: 9:15am
[1st Friday of each Month]

YOUTH MASS: 2nd & 4th Sunday
each Month 5pm.

HOLY HOUR / ADORATION:

- Every Friday after 9:15 Mass
- 1st Saturdays each month after 9:15am Mass
- 3:30pm 2nd & 4th Sundays

RECONCILIATION:

After 9:15am Mass: Wed & Saturday

YOUTH GROUPS: QUINN'S PLACE:
Year 7+ Friday's 6pm-10pm Community
House / Hall / Church. **ON HOLIDAYS**

ENCOUNTER: Youth Group: Primary
school age 3pm-4:45pm before Youth
Mass 2nd & 4th Sundays of each Month.
Community House. **ON HOLIDAYS**

Video Sunday Mass:

Watch Mass Live: Every Sun. 9AM

<https://vimeo.com/event/3992363>

Or go to website to copy link:

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/mornington>

ALSO: at our regular YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW8lyzEMe20DLyOppts0Fw/videos>

Upcoming Holy days:

- Mon 8th: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
- FEAST (no mass)

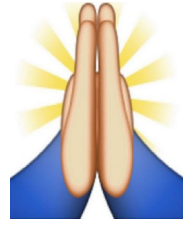
MOVEABLE FEASTS OF 2024

- 14th Feb - Ash Wednesday (start of Lent)
- 31st March - Easter Sunday
- 12th May - Ascension of our Lord
- 19th May - Pentecost
- 2nd June - Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ
- 1st December - 1st Sunday Advent

Fr Geoff away from 7th Jan - 23rd Jan.

WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

Pray for the sick and their Carers: Tony Formosa, Betty Corke, Kevin Paganoni, Fiona Rush, Aaron Eastley, Bruce Reekie, Val Carr, Evan Senn, Adeline Lyn Tilden, Angela Turner, Poala Solvy, Terry Said, Kathleen Rose, Barbara Seymour, Barbara Hent, Gai Beveridge, Barbara Hunt, Dr Ron Fitzgerald, James Tokarczyk, Sarah-Jane Sharp, Pat Guest, Rhonda Vernon, Sinead Ryan and Sean O'Leary.



Anniversaries: *[please send in any anniversary notices, by Wednesday afternoon]*

Recent deaths:

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is said.

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;
camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R.)**
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. **(R.)**
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

We have come from the East to worship the king.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Creed is said.

Communion Antiphon

.Cf Matthew 2:2

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Historical

Context

The Magi

In some translations, the 'wise men' of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference "We saw his star as it rose". It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

ones who bear witness to the birth in this account are shepherds – some of the lowest of the low – as the gospel of Luke identifies Jesus as having a preferential option for the lowly ones. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem and give birth in their own house. They later flee to Egypt and then settle in Nazareth. The two towns need to be included in both accounts because they are named in some of the ancient prophecies about the Messiah. In the gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the birth are wise men, dignitaries from another land. The Matthew writer wants to emphasise the 'kingship' of Jesus and it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present gifts on the birth of a king.

The two stories deserve to be dealt with uniquely and should be unravelled from the muddled, entwined version that dominates our Christmas imagery.

Have you thought? – Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewish-ness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

Gospel Focus – Going home

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind.

When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

Gospel Reflection

The gospel of Mark, the first of the four canonical gospels to be written, does not bother at all with the question of the birth of Jesus. Written some ten or more years later, the gospels of Luke and Matthew both present a version of the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The gospel of John, written later still, also avoids details of Jesus' birth. The two accounts of the infancy that we do have from the gospels tell very different stories because they have each been used to place the rest of the gospel in a particular context. Unfortunately, the two stories have been mashed together so much that we now have one notion of the Christmas story that is a poor amalgam of the two unique narratives.

In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are living in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem and are forced to give birth out in a field because there is no room at the only inn in Bethlehem. The

Pope at Angelus: Love opens paths for peace, never suffocating others

At the Angelus prayer on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Pope Francis recalls that love should be filled with kindness and respect, never seeking to dominate those we love.

By Devin Watkins

Pope Francis prayed the traditional noon-day prayer of the Angelus on Monday, as the Church celebrated the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and the 57th World Day of Peace.

In his reflection ahead of the Marian prayer, the Pope encouraged Christians to place the New Year under the “caring gaze” of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He noted that the day’s Gospel reading depicts Mary as remaining “in a silence filled with wonder and adoration for the marvels that God is performing,” as the shepherds come to worship her Son, Jesus.

Mary, said the Pope, “makes room within herself for the One who is born. In silence and adoration, she places Jesus at the center and bears witness to Him as the Savior.” Cathedral of silence

Pope Francis pointed out that Mary, as a good mother, never sought to take the place of her Son, but became the first “cathedral of silence”, a place where God and man can meet.

Our mothers, too, he added, “bring us into the world and then continue to follow our development, often unnoticed, so that we can grow.”

“Let us remember this,” he said. “Love never suffocates; love makes space for the other and allows them to grow.” Healthy love never overpowers others

As the new year dawns, the Holy Father invited everyone to look to Mary and our own mothers “with grateful hearts”.

“Let us think about and also look to mothers,” he said, “to learn that love which is cultivated especially in silence, that knows how to make space for the other, respecting their dignity, allowing the freedom to express themselves, rejecting all forms of possession, domination, and violence.”

The Pope noted that his message for the 57th World Day of Peace recalls that temptation of humanity to break peaceful coexistence due to a thirst for power and lust for profit.

“Love, on the other hand, is made of respect and kindness,” he said. “In this way, it breaks down barriers and helps to live fraternal relationships, to build societies that are more just and humane, and more peaceful.”

Discreet, life-giving love

In conclusion, Pope Francis prayed that Mary, the Mother of God, might help us to grow in love that gives life to others.

“May Mother of God and our Mother, in the new year, help us to grow in this gentle, silent, and discreet love that generates life, and open paths in the world for peace and reconciliation.”





Jokes of the Week



1. The end is nigh-er than you thought!

A priest and a pastor are standing by the side of a road holding up a sign that reads "The end is near! Turn around now before it's too late!" A passing driver yells, "You guys are nuts!" and speeds past them. From around the curve, they hear screeching tires—then a big splash. The priest turns to the pastor and says, "Do you think we should just put up a sign that says 'Bridge Out' instead?"

2. A man of non-stop prayer!

A flood struck a town, and one man was stuck on his roof. He prayed, asking God to save him. Soon, a rowboat came by. The rower yelled, "Jump, I can save you." The man replied, "No, I prayed, and God will save me." Later, a motorboat came along. The motorboat operator yelled, "Get in, quick." Again, the man on the roof said, "No, it's fine. God is going to save him." A helicopter flew over and dropped a rope ladder onto the roof. Again, the man said no, that God would save him. The waters rose, and soon the man was at heaven's pearly gates. He saw God at the entrance and said, "What happened? I prayed and trusted you would save me." God said, "Well, I sent you two boats and a helicopter."

3. New driver!

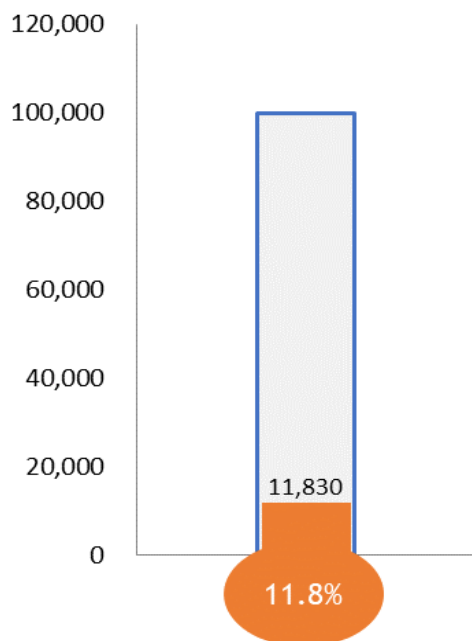
During a Sunday service, the pastor asked the congregation for their intentions. We heard the usual requests to pray for sick people and the acknowledgments for those who helped when a parishioner died. The somber mood was broken when the last intention was heard.

A woman stood up and said, "My grandson turned 16 this week and received his driver's license. Let us pray for us all."



Progress

Overall Target
Overall Total
On Track Target



ROOF RESTORATION FUND RAISING

**Currently you have donated
\$11,829 - Increase of \$327 from last week.**

Thank you

Dear parishioners,

The roof is scheduled to get repaired early in February so we still have time to raise the funds we desperately need.

We expect it to cost \$100,000. Your generosity is needed!

See our website video: <https://youtu.be/G4UgPcjSOk0>

So this fundraising starting today, will continue until we raise all the money. The sooner we raise it, the sooner we stop asking! There are several ways to donate!

1. Via a specific 'roof fundraising' Tap & Pay machine in the main foyer.
2. Via our website and give - under donations.
3. Send a cheque to the church.

I thank all of you for your patience and I know your generous support in this matter.

Blessings - Fr Geoff

Return dates 2024

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • St Macs Café: | Wednesday 24th Jan |
| • Encounter Junior Youth Group: | Sunday 28th Jan |
| • 3:30pm Holy Hour & 5pm Youth Mass | Sunday 28th Jan |
| • Quinn's Place senior youth group: | Friday 2nd Feb |
| • Baptism Information sessions | Wednesday 24th Jan |
| • Minister Unto God: | Tuesday 6th Feb |
| • Men's Night: | Thursday 20th Feb |
| • High Spirits | Tuesday 6th Feb |
| • The Prayer Cenical: | Tuesday 16th Jan |

Special Guest: Archbishop Denis Hart will preside over the 11am mass on Sunday 7th January 2024 with Bishop Les Tomlinson.

Mass Co-ordinators

6.00pm - Carmel Coles: 5975 3080

9.00am - Helen Britton : 0437 279 029

11.00am - Patricia Duryea: 0418 139 599

5.00pm - Danielle Field: 0410 596 637

The Epiphany of the Lord – 6/7 January 2024

7th Jan 11am - Archbishop Denis Hart presiding with Bishop Les Tomlinson

6.00pm Readers Marlene Tesmann, Brian Scantlebury

Eucharistic Mins Michael Turner, Alis Fisher

9.00am Readers John Azzopardi, Spencer Meier

Eucharistic Mins Richard Jolly, Clive Tucker

11.00am Readers Michael Harrison, Terry Roberts

Eucharistic Mins Barb Ensil, Rosina di Petta

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time – 13/14 January 2024

6.00pm Readers Carmel McGrath, Kees Duyvestyn,

Eucharistic Mins Mairi Duyvestyn, Joyce Ward

9.00am Readers Paul Girolami, Michael Kerr

Eucharistic Mins Pat Girolami, Kathleen Ronchi

11.00am Readers Joan Clements, Patricia Duryea

Eucharistic Mins Bridie Sexton, Shiela Goddard

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time – 20/21 January 2024

6.00pm Readers Fay Murphy, Iris Hallinan

Eucharistic Mins Alis Fisher, Michael Turner

9.00am Readers Spencer Meier, Marie Picton

Eucharistic Mins Frank Crea, Christina Llopart

11.00am Readers Irene Hackett, Gabrialla Fialla

Eucharistic Mins Evelyn Atkins, Shiela Goddard

JOIN ONE OF OUR TEAMS

If you are a regular at Mass and would like to help, we would love it!

Instruction and support will be given. Amongst other volunteers, we need more Mass Managers to ensure each Mass has all it requires to operate successfully.

If that's you, then please see Fr Geoff or contact Jody: jody54@westnet.com.au

Hello to our St Macartans Community

We hope you all had a peaceful and happy Christmas and it was filled with love and enjoyment.



All Christmas stock has been reduced, many items marked down below cost, especially the Nativity Scenes. Two have 11 pieces and one is an All-in-one, and are such good value. All Christmas stock is on a table outside of the Gift Shop.

As well as Christmas stock being reduced to clear, we are offering 10% of all other stock within the Gift Shop. This does not include the Christmas stock already marked down. That means you will take 10% of the price on all items in the gift shop as they haven't been marked with the 10% reduced price. This is only for the weekend of 6th & 7th and 13th & 14th of JANUARY. It would be great for you to support the Gift Shop and pick up some bargains for presents and gifts in the future. Communion and Confirmation will be around before you know it. After the two weeks, prices will return to normal.

We have a great selection of religious items so come and have a browse.

Regards and Thanks

Trish and Graham

St Macartan's faith support Library

In the annex foyer of the church - the foyer near the AV room. Fr An has set up a FREE library of religious and faith based books, for you to borrow and return when finished.

You may also have some books that you would like others to read. Please drop them at the presbytery and if suitable they will be added.

Enjoy books about Saints, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Jesus the Popes and many others. All will help support and enhance your faith.

Extra shelving will be going in, as well as more books.

Blessings

Fr An



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Contact Details:

- **AV & Livestreaming Technician:** Didier Le Miere: 0400 801 891
Email: Didier.lemiere31@gmail.com
- **Baptisms:** Every Saturday at 11am (Except the 1st Saturday of the month):
Contact Office: 5975 2200
- **Baptism Preparation:** Fr Geoff: Wednesdays of each month 5:30pm -
Bookings are necessary. 5975 2200.
- **Catholic Mission Parish Ambassador:** Jody Kerrins
jody54@westnet.com.au
- **Finance Committee:** Frank Crea: 0417 104 041
- **Marriage & Counselling:** Charmaine Holmes: 0413 394 085
Email: charholmes59@gmail.com
- **Marriage Preparation:** Fr Geoff, Email: Geoffrey.mcilroy@cam.org.au
- **Memorial Wall:** Contact Parish Office: 5975 2200
- **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC):** Jody Kerrins (Chairperson)
Email: jody54@westnet.com.au
- **Safeguarding Officer:** Tim Lambourne Mornington.ChildSafety@cam.org.au
- **Spiritual Director/Pastoral Counsellor/Psychotherapist:** Angelo
Campagna Ph: 0411 305 478, Website: www.angelocampagna.com.au
- **St Mac's High Spirits:** Teacher is Michael Kerr: Contact office: 5975 2200
- **St Mac's Café: Coordinators are** Fr Geoff 5975 2200
- **St Macartan's Gift Shop:** Trish Thomas: 0425 749 379
- **St Vincent de Paul:** Barry Murphy: 0419 225 455
- **Volunteer Application Support Officer:** Contact Parish Office: 5975 2200
- **Visitation Group:** Fr An email: An.le@cam.org.au 59752200
- **Weddings contact the Office or Fr Geoff : 5975 2200**
- **Youth Worker (Quinn's Place):** Kristina Turner,
Email: Kristina.b2906@bigpond.com
- **Youth Worker (Encounter):** Kate McInnes, Email: morningtonparish.youth@cam.org.au

Schools:

- **St Macartan's Primary School:** Ph: 5979 9200
- **Principal:** Colleen McGreal
- **Deputy:** Andrea Kershaw
- **Padua College:** Ph: 5976 0100
- **Principal:** Kelly McGurn
- **Vice Principal:** Mission, Identity & Community: Matthew Williams

FRIENDS OF OUR PARISH

I have always appreciated good customer service and good value for money. Therefore, whenever I find someone who supports our Parish in these ways, they become friends and I truly believe we should show our support to them too.



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Fr Geoff rates it as: Yum, Yum, & Yummy!
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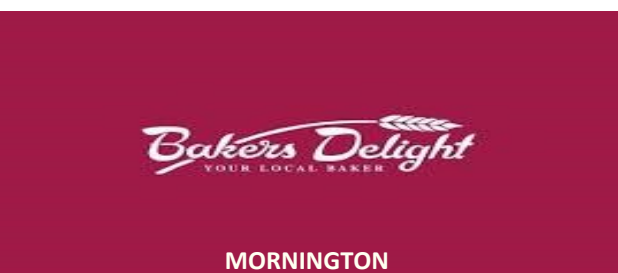
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Tel: 0436 393 390

partypets2u@gmail.com.au



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